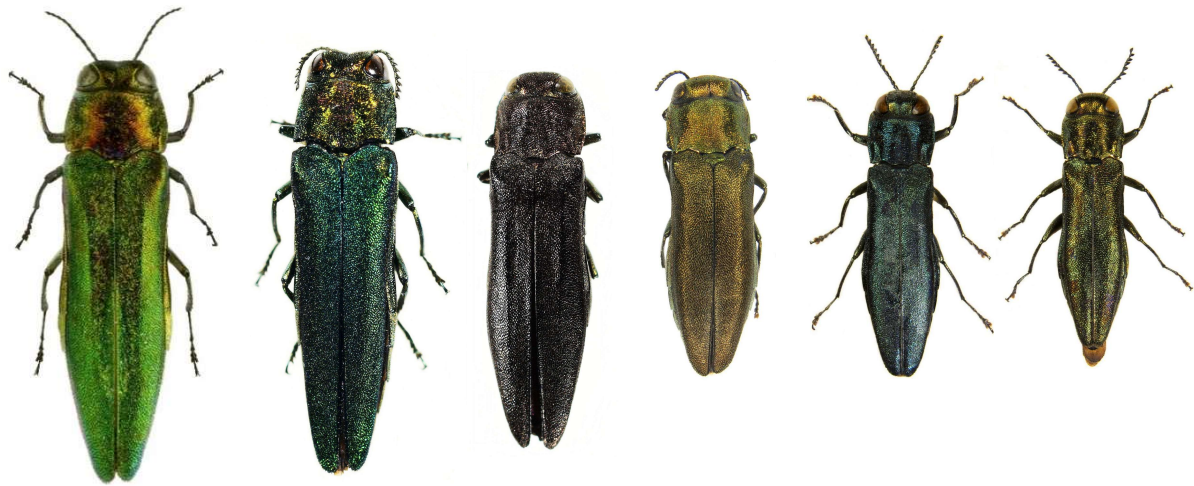


EPPO – FAO-REUFIS – BFW Conference

**Safeguarding Forests in Europe:
Emerging Risks of *Agrilus* Wood Borers
(Buprestidae)**



21–23 April 2026

Vienna, Austria

Programme and Abstracts



BFW



Editors: Dmitrii Musolin (EPPO), Ferenc Lakatos (FAO-REUFIS), and Gernot Hoch (BFW).

Cover photo: *Agrilus planipennis* (2 specimens), *A. anxius*, *A. roscidus*, *A. sulcicollis*, and *A. graminis* (the left photo by Alexander V. Petrov [IL,RU], other photos by James Connell [BFW; AT]).

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The conference: This is a joint conference co-organized by the [European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization \(EPPO\)](#), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – [Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia \(REUFIS\)](#), and the [Austrian Research Centre for Forests \(BFW\)](#).

Materials: After the conference, presentations, poster, abstract book, and recording will be available at the web-page of the meeting: https://www.eppo.int/MEETINGS/2026_meetings/conf_agrilus

Venue: [Austrian Research Centre for Forests \(BFW\): Seckendorff-Gudent-Weg 8, 1131 Vienna, Austria](#)



*In 2026 EPPO celebrates 75 years
since its establishment in 1951.*

[EPPO Network of experts working on surveillance,
monitoring, and control of the emerald ash borer,
Agrilus planipennis](#)



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Challenges in eradication of *Agrilus planipennis* in Slovenian forests: Are we ready?

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The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire, 1888) has already invaded many countries and has had destructive implications for forest ecosystems and the economy. In its invasive range in Europe it was first observed in Moscow (Russia) in 2003 and soon spread in all directions. Currently, it is in Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia near the Estonian border and is expected to enter the European Union in the coming years. The emerald ash borer is considered a quarantine species under EU plant health regulations (Regulation (EU) 2016/2031). One measure that should be taken to address quarantine priority pests is a simulation exercise to test a country's preparedness for an outbreak of a particular quarantine species. Here, we present the results of a simulation exercise of an *A. planipennis* outbreak in Slovenia, which was organized as a part of the national project CRPV4-1823. The hypothetical outbreak area of *A. planipennis* was characterized by the following: i) mixed ash stands, iii) proximity to Croatia, iv) a typical Slovenian forest ownership structure. The study area was in south-eastern Slovenia, near the Croatian border. Using a multistakeholder approach, we took into account all the stakeholders that would be involved in eradicating the emerald ash borer. We compared measures set out by EU legislation and the EPPO Standards. We organized several workshops with the stakeholders to discuss the measures and identify potential bottlenecks. We found challenges which concern ownership, logistics, forest ownership structure, and biological and geographical situations, and discussed their impact on the proposed measures. While some challenges, such as ownership and some of the measures, were feasible to address, many others were not because they are factors that cannot be modified (e.g. like biological and geographical situations, forest owner structure, or organizational reasons such as inaccessible areas or logistics).